

which you have my thanks. I sincerely hope you may succeed in getting the North-Carolina Railroad extended from Asheville to the Tennessee line near Duck Town, and that the State and citizens will go to work and finish the road, through its entire length, at the earliest practicable period; then North-Carolina would take her stand as one of the first States of this Union. We are pushing to completion the branch of the E. T. and Georgia Railroad from Cleaveland to Chattanooga, and will build a road from Cleaveland to the North-Carolina line, near Duck Town, in time to meet North-Carolina at that point. Then there would be completed almost an air-line of roads from Memphis (and as much further west as the road in that direction will be made) to Beaufort harbor. This road will do more to promote the agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and as a certain consequence, the independence of the South, than all the Southern commercial conventions that has met or will meet in this 19th century.

You ask if Tennessee would build a road up the Little Tennessee to the North-Carolina line of 4 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches guage.

I think the law requires all the roads of this State to be made of one and the same guage, 5 feet.

But whether the law requires it or not, I believe a charter of the 4 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ guage could not be passed through our Legislature.

I feel a deep interest in the internal improvements in North-Carolina.

Yours very truly,

J. T. LENOIR.